

Edward Brooke wins a Senate election

1966 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

election — a process in which people vote to choose leaders or decide questions

represent — speak or act for others

equality — having equal rights or standing

Look closely



Edward Brooke

Read the story

Edward Brooke was elected a U.S. senator from Massachusetts. He was the first Black person popularly elected to the U.S. Senate. His election was an important political milestone.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. What happened in this reading? Tell one fact.
2. Who or what is this reading mostly about?
3. Choose a word from the word bank. Explain it in your own words.
4. Look at the picture and its caption. What does it help you notice? Is it from the time of the event?

Follow-up reading: Chappaquiddick and public accountability

1969

Mary Jo Kopechne died after a car driven by Senator Edward Kennedy went into water on Chappaquiddick. The event raised serious questions about actions, reporting, and responsibility.

How are the two readings alike or different? Tell a partner one connection. Which event came first?

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.2.1: ask and answer questions; RI.2.2: identify a main topic; RI.2.7: use images and words; W.2.2 and SL.2.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: Edward Brooke was elected a U.S. senator from Massachusetts. He was the first Black person popularly elected to the U.S. Senate. His election was an important political milestone. Earlier Black senators had been chosen by state legislatures. Brooke's distinction concerns popular election, not being the first Black senator ever. Precision helps honor achievements without erasing earlier people.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

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The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.